

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

transmitting data from an electronic system over a communications medium, the data transmission associated with a data session;

receiving an indication of an incoming telephone call transmitted over the communications medium; and

maintaining the data session while halting the data transmission and handling the incoming telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the handling the incoming telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system is performed in response to a voice command.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining the data session while halting the data transmission and handling the incoming telephone call comprises:

maintaining the data session using the modem-on-hold feature of the V.92 protocol;

playing voice signals from the incoming telephone call using the speaker of the electronic system;

receiving audio input via the microphone of the electronic system; and

transmitting data representing the audio input over the communications medium.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising resuming transmission of data over the communications medium upon termination of the incoming telephone call.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein termination of the incoming telephone call occurs in response to a voice command.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving an indication of a source of the incoming telephone call; and
providing an output, via the electronic device, indicating the source of the incoming telephone call.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the indication of the source comprises a caller ID signal.

8. An apparatus comprising:
a modem to transmit and receive data via a communications medium during a data session during which the modem transmits data to and receives data from a remote device, wherein the modem detects an indication of an incoming telephone call and maintains the data session while halting transmission and receipt of data in response to the indication of the incoming telephone call; and
a telephone call handling circuit coupled with the communications medium to cause audio signals from the incoming telephone call to be played by a speaker coupled with the telephone call handling circuit, to receive audio signals via a microphone

coupled with the telephone call handling circuit and to transmit the audio signals over the communications medium.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the incoming telephone call is accepted in response to a voice command.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the modem resumes transmitting and receiving data in response to termination of the incoming telephone call.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the incoming telephone call is terminated in response to a voice command.

12. An article comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to:

transmit data from an electronic system over a communications medium, the data transmission associated with a data session;

receive an indication of an incoming telephone call transmitted over the communications medium; and

maintain the data session while halting the data transmission and handling the incoming telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system.

13. The article of claim 12 wherein the handling the incoming telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system is performed in response to a voice command.

14. The article of claim 12 wherein the instructions that cause the one or more processors to maintain the data session while halting the data transmission and handling the incoming telephone call comprise instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to:

maintain the data session using the modem-on-hold feature of the V.92 protocol;
play voice signals from the incoming telephone call using the speaker of the electronic system;

receive audio input via the microphone of the electronic system; and

transmit data representing the audio input over the communications medium.

15. The article of claim 12 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to resume transmission of data over the communications medium upon termination of the incoming telephone call.

16. The article of claim 15 wherein the incoming telephone call is terminated in response to a voice command.

17. A system comprising:
a twisted-pair telephone line;

a modem coupled with the twisted-pair telephone line to transmit and receive data via a communications medium during a data session during which the modem transmits data to and receives data from a remote device, wherein the modem detects an indication of an incoming telephone call and maintains the data session while halting transmission and receipt of data in response to the indication of the incoming telephone call; and

a telephone call handling circuit coupled with the communications medium to cause audio signals from the incoming telephone call to be played by a speaker coupled with the telephone call handling circuit, to receive audio signals via a microphone coupled with the telephone call handling circuit and to transmit the audio signals over the communications medium.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the incoming telephone call is accepted in response to a voice command.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the modem resumes transmitting and receiving data in response to termination of the incoming telephone call.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the incoming telephone call is terminated in response to a voice command.

21. A method comprising:
transmitting data from an electronic system over a communications medium, the data transmission associated with a data session;

maintaining the data session while halting the data transmission and to initiate a telephone call; and

processing the telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the telephone call is initiated in response to a voice command.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising resuming transmission of data in response to termination of the telephone call.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising terminating the telephone call in response to a voice command.

25. An article comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions that, when executed, cause one or more processors to:

transmit data from an electronic system over a communications medium, the data transmission associated with a data session;

maintain the data session while halting the data transmission and to initiate a telephone call; and

process the telephone call using a microphone and a speaker of the electronic system.

26. The article of claim 25 wherein the telephone call is initiated in response to a voice command.

27. The article of claim 25 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to resume transmission of data in response to termination of the telephone call.

28. The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause the one or more processors to terminate the telephone call in response to a voice command.